Happy Holidays to All!

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION·VALLEY

Vol. V No. 5 SERVING SAN FRANCISCO'S SOUTHEAST COMMUNITIES DECEMBER 1990

New pastor at St. James Church

By Gerry L. Galvan

New and invigorating dimensions in the Christian faith as they relate to one's role in the community are being felt at Saint James Church, 240 Leland Ave., thanks to the Session (board of directors).

The Session has worked extra hard since the resignation of the late Rev. Richard Mark Coonradt in 1983 to inject new concepts of growth in the church and the community.

One of the innovative items in the Session's agenda was to hire a Filipino pastor. The Session mulled over the suggestion. Representations were made with the Presbytery which gave its full backing. The search for a qualified Filipino pastor was conducted and a selection was made.

The Rev. Dr. Jeremias Resus was officially installed as fulltime pastor of Saint James on November 11.

This exclusive interview with Rev. Resus follows:

"As pastor of Saint James Church, I really will be flexible in a lot of things to meet the needs of the people in this area," Resus said.

The needs to which Resus referred have been obvious as they are often aired in the media and open community forums.

"I've sat down with ultra-conservatives and ultra-liberals,"

See PASTOR, Page 9

OLVS youth 'Miss Sunnydale'

Natriece Spicer, the new Miss Sunnydale.

By Pat Christensen

Ten year old Natriece Spicer, a fifth grade student at Our Lady of Visitacion School, was named Miss Sunnydale at the November contest sponsored by the Sunnydale Branch of the San Francisco Boys and Girls Club.

According to Ruby Smith, program coordinator, "We want to help these young girls and women feel good about themselves. Before the contest they had regular practices which included walking, turning, modeling as well as singing and public speaking."

Natriece won, not only on the merits of her good looks, but her poise and ability to answer some difficult questions.

In reply to the question about why she thought she was the perfect candidate for Miss Sunnydale, Natriece responded,

"I think I'm the perfect candidate for Miss Sunnydale because I take an interest in Sunnydale and try to set a good example."

Wearing a black velvet, 2 piece strapless dress with a layered skirt flashing purple polka dots when she moved, Natriece accepted her dozen red roses and a crown which she will pass down to future Miss Sunnydales.

"I was really happy to win the right to go on all our Club field trips," Natriece said. That was my prize. Usually I would have to earn 50 credits for work around the center in order to qualify for the trips, but because I won the contest, I get to go anyway. I'll still do the work and get credits though."

Natriece has her goals set for future contests. "I think because I won Miss Sunnydale I have a better chance to enter Miss Teen U.S.A, Miss U.S.A., Miss America, and Miss Universe.

See WINNER, Page 10

Pre-registration for kindergarten Dec. 11

By Vincent Chao, principal

Kindergarten pre-registration strarts December 11, 1990 through June 14, 1991 for the 1991-92 School Year. It must be done at the school of assignment based on the home address.

Please bring the child's birth certificate, updated immunization records, and proof of address.

OER (Optional Enrollment Request) applications must be submitted between December 11, 1990 and January 31, 1991. The computer random selection process will take place on March 3, 1991.

The school exterior walls received a new coat of paint over the summer, thanks to the Proposition "A" funding. It's the first face-lift since the school was built in 1936. All the windows will be replaced during this Christmas vacation. We encourage the neighbors to keep the school safe and clean.

The '89-'90 3rd grade C.A.P.. test scores improved in reading, language arts and especially in Math. Congratulations to our students, teachers, and parents for their hard work, dedication and support!

Guest Editorial

By Shirletha Holmes-Boxx

I read this article in the *Post* last month, and I want to share it with you because our community is truly impacted by the sale of cheap malt liquor/beer @ two for 99 cents.

An Open Letter to the Editor:

Although our voice is a small one compared to the voice of huge corporations and gigantic money machines, this small voice cries out in behalf of the hundreds of thousands of small voices affected and caught in this nightmare that is destroying our neighborhoods, grass-roots grocery stores, and yes, even our neighbors and their children.

We're all aware of the "Monster Cocaine." It wasn't long ago that cocaine was considered a luxury drug and not often found in the flatland communities with the accessibility we now know it to have. But once cocaine or crack was introduced at an "everyday low price." gang-related violence, prostitution, and thievery shot up to an everyday high.

Now there is an even greater threat than the everyday low price of cocaine. It's the latest series of promotions aimed at the low income areas and predominantly ethnic communities -- Marketed as

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Guest Editorial

Guest

Continued from Page 1

affordable and discounted, two for 99 cents malt beer/liquor. Placing heavy emphasis on the terms discounted and low priced, this cheap everyday, low priced product has become the trademark drink of gangs, drug abusers, substance abusers, and low income consumers as a whole. This special promotion (mostly in low income areas) comes at a time when our communities and neighborhoods already struggle to rid themselves of one cheap high (cocaine). This so-called "special promotion" does nothing but line the greedy pockets of irresponsible retailers, distributors, and breweries and helps to increase substance abuse in our communities.'

Now, we're not implying that everyone of low income who drinks malt beer is in a gang, is a drug user, or substance abuser. Nor is it the intent to label melt beer/liquor as a deadly drug like crack or cocaine. But when the cheap price of malt beer begins to have the devastating effect it is having on our communities, and its residents, it seems clear to us and others that have looked closed at the problem, that industry seems to have targeted these destructive special promotions in the low income communities and/or stores.

Remember the problems in Oakland and San Francisco with the influx of cheap fortified wines, pushed or promoted heavily in low income areas and promoted as low priced, affordable, discounted, etc. Only after the community and committed leaders of the community took a stand and said, "Enough is enough," did the powers that be in the industry take a responsible position and remove or re-price those products,

Like a thief in the night, the malt liquor companies saw their opportunity and now we have a new threat to our communities. The two for 99 cent malt liquor/beer is destroying our communities. All community merchants, and the youth in those communities can and will be affected by these easy and accessible two cheap highs, crack and discounted two for 99 cent malt beers. We must say to those in responsible positions, "Enough is enough."

We know one small voice does not seem like much, but hundreds of thousands affected by this "low price beer" does and will make a difference.

Your voice is also needed. Will you take a stand and say, "Enough is enough?."

Men of Tomorrow

JUST SAY NO to cheap liquor!

Don't entice our children to spend their lunch money on a cheap high.

If you wish to take a stand against the two for 99 cents malt liquor/beer, call me at 584-0835.

Never miss an issue, have the GRAPEVINE mailed to your home each month. Send $9.00 with your name, address and phone number to GRAPEVINE, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134.

TODAY!!

GRAPEVINE
VISITACION·VALLEY

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Centervoice

LETTER TO JULIE KAVANAGH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

I recently moved to the Visitacion Valley/Portola area and received my first issue of the Grapevine a couple of months ago. It is a very nice, informative publication.

I am writing to you to ask your help with a small project. Each morning on my way to work in Burlingame, I make a right hand turn at the corner of Paul Avenue and Bayshore Boulevard on the way to 101. This is a major intersection and heavily used to and from Candlestick Park. It certainly looks heavily used judging from the debris (plastic bags, cardboard boxes, etc.) that litter that side of Bayshore all the way to 101.

I would like to have a senses of pride in my neighborhood and, frankly, being the compulsive that I am, the sight of all this trash bothers me.

There is a program in San Francisco run by the Sheriff's Department called SWAP. You've probably heard of it.

People who have been convicted of driving while intoxicated can do community service by picking up trash along the highways and streets of San Francisco.

I called them about how to go about adding Paul and Bayshore to their areas to be regularly cleaned up. The process they described for this to happen involved the receipt of a letter from a respected member of the community to the program requesting trash pick up service at the specific location.

Would it be possible for you...to write a letter to SWAP requesting their service? Julie, if this could be accomplished, it would make this compulsive's heart glad.

Lawrence J. Zabo

Julie Kavanagh responded to this reader's request, as follows:

To Deputy Sharon Barrett:

Thank you for your recent help in providing a crew for the October 14 barbecue here in the Valley. The neighbors really appreciated it, and it looks like we may see the organization of a new neighborhood watch group and the reorganization of the Merchants Association as direct results of the event.

Now, I'm writing you to see if you could help with another problem in our neighborhood.

(Here Julie paraphrases Mr. Zabo's letter. We'll let you know how this problem was taken care of in the January issue.)

The Captain's Desk

By Captain Diamuid Philpot
Ingleside Police Station

One of the most disturbing problems in any residential or business neighborhood is the presence of graffiti on walls, doors and fences. Many efforts and much time has been spent in trying to understand and fight the problem. It still exists, fostering the belief that things are out of control.

Despite the seemingly chronic nature of the problem, something can be done. In the Excelsior district, neighbors, merchants and police are banding together to paint out graffiti. Several paint-offs have already been done. The results are very encouraging.

To understand why painting it off works, one must first understand the motives of the graffiti vandal in writing on the walls to begin with.

The average youth who places his symbol or "tag" on a wall is looking for recognition and issuing a challenge. The more walls he places his tag on, the more publicity he gets and the higher is his esteem among his peers. However, his tag attracts other tags. Youths organize into gangs to write on walls to show that the area is their turf, or they place their tags as a challenge next to those of opposing groups.

Whatever the reasons the graffiti was written, once it is painted off, it seems to stay off and the challenge is taken away.

Neighborhood groups have gotten together and begun to paint it off. One of the first efforts took place a number of years ago in the Excelsior.

Merchants, neighbors and police spent a few hours on a Saturday morning painting over the graffiti. They covered Mission Street from Silver Avenue to Geneva and parts of Russia, Persia and Excelsior streets.

Presently, merchant groups in the Army and Mission area and in the Excelsior have set up accounts at certain paint stores so that the volunteer groups can buy paint and equipment. Recycled paint is also being used.

The plan is for volunteers to get together at scheduled times to paint off the graffiti. Any persons arrested for writing graffiti, if possible, will be sentenced to work a specified number of hours assisting the volunteers in clearning off the mess.

Graffiti is a blight that encourages the belief that laws are not being enforced. It lowers the value of property and it discourages shoppers.

I believe if everyone works together to fight it, it can be beaten.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I pity the young white man who was trying to deliver the GRAPEVINE around 10:00 pm because he wanted to finish the delivery that night. The reason was, as dutiful as he was, that most of the residents would only discard your paper because it has some relevance to a very minor section of the community. Surely you are aware that the ethnic composition of Visitation now includes many non and limited English speakers who find your newspaper more of a litter problem than informational.

Since your staff should had gone to the community meeting on October 14, 1990 to get relevant input from the residents, I am sure you had heard about the urgent appeals they made to make the community more safe and they need strategies to safeguard themselves.

So, if your GRAPEVINE is really meant to be a community newspaper, then you should have these concerns translated in the targeted languages. Also, there should be more stress on this community's problems such as: bus drivers who fear their own livews and don't dare go to the Sunnydale projects, the irregularity of buses, the inappropriate use of short (versus the articulated) buses for the #9 Express; the thrill seekers who race their cars or the dope fiends who try to evade the police arrests by speeding through the community streets and menacing the residents.

How about using your newspaper to encourage crime victims to come forward to report the muggings, robberies and beatings aimed at the Asians in this community and elsewhere?

When I casually mentioned these problems to one of the #9 bus drivers, he shocked me by saying he sees the daylight robberies (against the elderly and Asians) sometimes a few times a day! I asked him what he did and he saddened me by saying he just passed by!

Couldn't Muni help to fight crime by making it mandatory for drivers (who have easy access to the bus phone) to identify the robbers and let the police make the arrests?

The amount of apathy, ignorance, cultural inhibitions to report crimes and drug-related is ideal for all the violence to occur in this neighborhood.

In addition, I would like to know what the police, Muni, supervisors and other heads of these organizations' plans are, now that they have heard the complains made by some of the less-intimidated residents.

Will your GRAPEVINE show more concern for the community's safety, invite residents to report drug nests (without revealing their identities and therefore jeopardizing their lives) and any crime committed against them and show residents how to set up a "watchdog" situation to deter the beatings, muggings and robberies.

If you are unable to hire translators, I believe that the staff of the major language community organization can assist you, if only you make the effort to ask.

True, this process would entail much work, but if your GRAPEVINE is indeed "SERVING OUR COMMUNITY" then you should make more of an effort to have the major concerns in key languages at least once a while. I wonder, out of a circulation of 7,000, how many people actually read it. Have you ever checked?

The October issue has mostly advertisements and political ads and not much information about the Asian residents.

Just as I was to conclude this letter, I suddenly came up with the idea of reprinting a lot of resources that have already been translated into the other languages, so, with the permission, you should be able to inform the different ethnic groups such vital information.

Check with the different community college sites for such resources. I hope you will consider my suggestions seriously because, while many Asians are culturally inhibited to report the crimes made against them, I hope your GRAPEVINE would take a mopre responsible stand and inform them, and, hopefully, change them to be less apathetic.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely.
Name withheld until paper represents other ethnic groups

Dear Reader:
It is our policy not to print anonymous letters; however, your letter is so provocative, we felt we must call you out. The GRAPEVINE is produced by volunteers – people who care about their community as you do.

Please show yourself. We need your help and the help of others like you. Call 731-2859 to talk.

Planners to hear Bayshore proposal

The City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed construction of a neighborhood commercial shopping center at Bayshore and Hester on December 13 at 1:30 p.m., Room 282, City Hall.

Proposed is the construction of 40 buildings containing a maximum of 80 dwelling units on 1.99 acres.

Also proposed is construction of a new private road to serve half of the buildings.

The construction requires exemption from City Planning code for minimum lot size, usable open space, rear-yard setbacks.

The project potentially involves reclassification of existing zoning of the project site.

Call Linda Avery at 558-6414 for further information.

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Commentary: Land development deal

By Mayor Art Agnos

Last week I introduced a San Francisco concept to build a new neighborhood in Pleasanton. what I hope can happen is that San Francisco will develop land we own, create a new annual income for our city budget, and that Pleasanton will get the kind of new development they seek.

It has been decades since San Francisco city leaders proposed a way for our city budget to earn money for city services by development of our own assets. Perhaps the best known past examples are Hetch Hetchy, which earns money for the city, and San Francisco International Airport, which also provides profits for us.

Many people are surprised to learn that San Francisco is a major land owner. Our city is the largest property owner in San Mateo County (and because of the airport's location, we also provide the largest employment opportunities in San Mateo County.)

In 1930, we acquired 550 acres in Contra Costa County near Pleasanton for groundwater. Obviously, there wasn't much there back then. For years, this land has been used for agricultural purposes and grazing.

About four years ago, Pleasanton rezoned this land and asked San Francisco to work

Mayor Art Agnos

with them to develop a mixed-use plan. What is envisioned would be the first Pleasanton development to include affordable housing, as well as parks, open space, a golf course, school site, fire station, new streets and a neighborhood commercial center.

As a result of the rezoning, this acreage is worth about $40 million. One option would be to sell it outright, take the $40 million profit, and use it now for city purposes.

That would give us a one-time windfall, but it wouldn't solve some of the basic budget problems that we have. And while we would have a one-time profit, we would be turning over the long-term profits to a developer who would take in millions every year for decades to come.

I would rather see San Francisco get the long-term earnings -- and create new permanent revenues for our city. In this way, we are adding to our income without resorting to tax increases every time. It's what I call entrepreneurial government.

There is not going to be a "magic bullet" that puts away San Francisco's annual struggle to balance our budget. Sometimes people ask, if business cuts back when revenues are bad, then why can't City Hall?

The answer, of course, is that we can and have made cut backs.

A few months ago, the major municipal rating firms looked again at how we manage San Francisco's finances.

This is what Moody's Municipal Credit Report said:

"The city's weakened financial position, the result of successive General Fund deficits,

See AGNOS, Page 7

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Legislative fellowships openings

Applications for the 1991-92 California State Senate Fellowship Program are now available.

The Fellowship Program provides college graduates an opportunity to become full-time staff members working in a senator's Capitol office or committee for 11 months. Fellows also participate in academic seminars with senators, senior staff members, journalists, lobbyists, and state government officials for which they receive 12 graduate credits from California State University, Sacramento.

Fellows are paid a stipend of $1,560 a month plus health and dental benefits.

Anyone who has graduated from college by June 1991 may apply. Seventeen fellowships are awarded by the Senate Rules Committee in May. The deadline for submitting applications to the program is February 20, 1991.

Interested persons should contact Senator Quentin Kopp's office by writing to 363 El Camino Real, South San Francisco, CA 94080 or calling 952-5666.

Application for 1991-92 Jesse Marvin Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program are also available.

Fellows work as Assembly staff during the 11 month program. In addition to a stipend and full health coverage, they also receive 12 units of graduate credits through California State University Sacramento.

As a minimum requirement, applicants must have a bachelor's degree by the October 1991 program start.

In the fall, Fellows gain intensive training before being assigned first as legislative aide in Assemblymembers' Capitol offices then as committee consultants.

Assemblymember John Burton invites anyone interested to contact his office at 557-2253. Application deadline is March 1, 1991.

Assemblyman John Burton

Sen. Quentin Kopp

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Cheap oil & other history

By Matthew Brady

As San Francisco industry expanded it realized that it needed a cheap fuel that was readily available. In other words, oil. But petroleum shipped by the railroads was prohibitive on account of the excessive rates.

On the horizon was help. In 1886 ships designed to carry bulk oil began to appear on the seven seas. And on January 9, 1896, at 11:30 in the morning the Pacific Coast Oil Company launched the tank oil steamer George Loomis at the Union Iron Works. 175 feet in length with a 28 ft. beam and capable of nine knots, she cost $100,000.

The Loomis could make five round trips a month between The City and Ventura County, where oil had been discovered in 1866. From refineries at Santa Paula the oil was carried by pipeline to the coast for shipment to San Francisco Bay.

This abundance of cheap oil was to make local industry competitive with the oil-fueled Eastern manufacturers and give The City full employment.

A hundred years ago, when there was more fog and no radar, navigating a ship inbound or outbound through the Golden Gate was a hazardous venture. Fogs posed more of a threat to a captain than hidden rocks.

A local meteorologist, Alexander McAdie, reasoned that if skippers could be given ample fog warnings the bay would be safer for both the U.S. fleet and commercial carriers. McAdie, the assistant forecast official of the local weather bureau, came up with an idea for a system of signals that would be arranged to notify every captain in the harbor from The Heads to the mouth of the Sacramento River of the approach of a deadly fog, its nature and probable density, and the rate of its approach, in time for them to take appropriate measures.

Three San Francisco police officers watch the launching of a Japanese light cruiser at the Union Ironworks yard in 1898.

Central to McAdie's plan was the erection of an observatory on the peak of Tamalpais, which he considered the best strategic point on the coast from which to accurately register approaching storms and fog from the Pacific. The stone building would be fitted with instruments to judge atmospheric changes and telegraph apparatus connected to the main office of the U.S. Weather Bureau in the Mills Building.

Unfortunately McAdie's plan was swallowed up by the fog that envelops the bureaucracy.

A great chunk of our early history will disappear when the synthetic Mission Bay Village is laid down.

Mission Bay took its name from Mission Dolores, which was planted on the shores of Mission Creek close to where it emptied into the bay. Though it was shallow, it covered 260 acres, making it the largest bay along The City's shoreline.

When the gold diggers waded ashore in 1849, Mission Bay was nearly half-moon in shape and measured a mile across. In the middle was a tiny island known as Mission Rock, which in those early days was a goat farm.

Mission Bay was fed with fresh waters from the east facing slopes of Twin Peaks, through a main drainage channel. In the 1870s the bay was filled with pesky sand from dunes that stretched along its southern shores. Soon debris from the construction of the Bay View and Potrero Railroad - up to 100,000 cubic yards of rock was removed from a deep cut through Hill to provide a graded roadbed - was dumped into the bay. Then after the 1906 Quake, Mission Bay was found to be a convenient hole in which to dump some of the ruins from that tragedy.

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Measles cases in SF worry Health Dept.

California has experienced a significant increase in measles cases over the past few years. In 1990, 47 people state-wide have died to date from complications associated with the measles virus.

San Francisco has also experienced an increase in measles cases. In response, the Department of Public Health has initiated a campaign to promote vaccination against measles. For information on how you can protect yourself and your children, please call 554-2830 or write to the Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control, San Francisco Department of Public Health, 101 Grove St., Room 402, San Francisco, CA 94102.

In the Parks

Special Holiday Events:

Sat., Dec. 8, 10a.m.-1p.m. Strybing Arboretum's Annual Holiday Greens Sale and Wreathmaking Workshop. Fee for the workshop is $5, including materials. Pre-registration is required. Call 661-0668.

Mon., Dec. 10, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Harmony Singing Group for Seniors, Golden Gate Park Senior Center, 6101 Fulton St., near 37th Ave., Golden Gate Park. Call 666-7015.

Tues., Dec. 11, 9a.m.-Noon, Stained Glass Class for Adults, Portola Recreation Center, Felton and Holyoke Sts., materials fee, instruction free. Call 468-2875.

Thurs., Dec. 13, 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Boating and Fishing at Lake Merced, #1 Harding Road, Skyline Blvd. at Great Highway. Call 753-1101.

Life is too short

By **Derrick Dogan**

C-R-A-C-K Cocaine.
Driving my sisters and brothers insane.

Staying awake 24 hours at a time.
For one more hit, users even turn to crime.
Stealing from their loved ones –
What a shame
As users attempt to deal with the pain.

The first hit provides one serious high.
It's killing our people – I wonder why.
Why use the drug? Maybe to escape.
Many are dying – what does it take?

Users lose friends, weight and even careers.
Those who care are left in tears.
An addiction is a disease, help must come from within.
Don't play with your life – it could easily end.

Get help today. You're not promised tomorrow,
and many have died and left us in sorrow.
You can be that one who turns it all around.
Get off the ladder – please come down.

Don't gamble with your life.
You can easily lose.
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Agnos

Continued from Page 4

has improved somewhat in recent years due to strengthened budgetary control and efforts to broaden reserves. Due to conservative budgeting and careful management, the city was able to absorb both the immediate impact of October 17, 1989 earthquake as well as drought-related revenue losses without reducing reserves."

Standard and Poor's, the other major rating firm, gave us this report:

"San Francisco's fiscal 1990 budget was a major accomplishment as the plan provided for two-year pay increases and settlement of all labor contracts, expansion of some services, and no major tax increases. City officials were able to utilize FEMA programs to inject repair and service dollars into the Marin district and South of Market communities without severely impacting the city's financial position. Continued management practices that provide for fiscal stability remain a key component of the city's present credit quality."

When I was at a recent summit meeting of big city mayors held in New York, a major financial institution told me that San Francisco has the highest rating of any city-county combined government in the nation. If we were a city -- without the special costs that come from county services -- San Francisco would have a AAA rating, the industry's highest.

The effect of our county obligations, which include jails and health and social services, means that we can still face budget uncertainties because of court-mandated staffing in jails, and unexpected demands for

See AGNOS, Page 9

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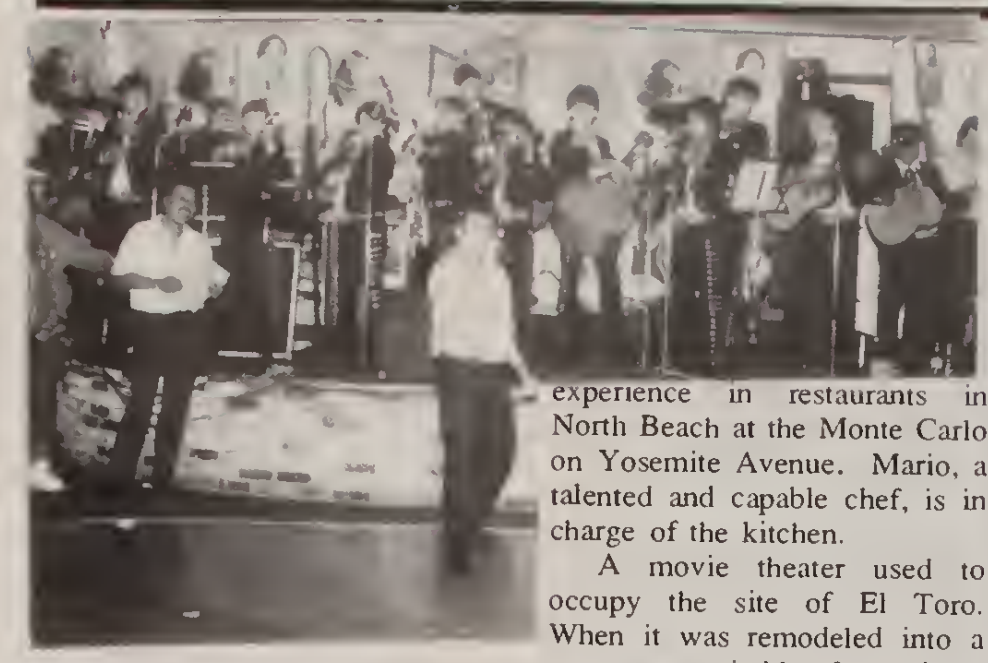

The El Toro

By Joseph Savoie

El Toro Restaurant and Night Club features authentic Italian American food from garlic bread, minestrone soup, salad, and antipasto to pasta of many types. They also serve Italian American entrees, a variety of sandwiches,and tempting desserts. There is full bar service for both lunch and dinner.

A child's plate is available for small fry.

Mexican food is offered as a dinner special on Wednesday evenings and as snacks on dance nights.

Larry Pasero, manager, came to El Toro with many year's experience in restaurants in North Beach at the Monte Carlo on Yosemite Avenue. Mario, a talented and capable chef, is in charge of the kitchen.

A movie theater used to occupy the site of El Toro. When it was remodeled into a restaurant suitable for private parties.

Well known and popular Bob and Tony Antonelli owned the business for 14 years. In 1985, they sold to Miguel Flores and Jorges Del Rio; however, Tony likes the place so much that he comes in and works the bar, opening at 6 a.m.

With the Tony's old sign still out in front of the building. he feels right at home.

The 3600 square foot dining room has a seating capacity of 250. The walls and ceiling have been sound proofed and an excellent sound system installed. The good acoustics allow music and conversation in the same room.

Please see El Toro's ad for page 9 for special coupon offer.

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Pastor

Continued from Page 1

Resus continued, "and I've been able to determine what the real issues and concerns of the community are."

Resus said that during his tenure as pastor of Saint James, he will follow a strict program designed to make his congregation a vital part of the community.

"There are several changes going on within Visitacion Valley, "he explained. "We really need to find our own role in this community. We will be able to achieve this if we can interact with the community.

In answer to the question, what can the church do in relation to the schools, business and various ethnic groups, he said, "Our church should always be friendly with all other groups of people, which doesn't mean that one has to dance to the music to please other sectors. There are theological guidelines to follow here. One must know the fundamentals, but sometimes one must dance to the music for the survival of the church,"

The survival of Saint James can be achieved if Resus can usher in a noteworthy goal of attracting people to the faith. He says he is prepared to go into ministering to the reduction of drug use among our citizens. He will witness to the problem areas in the community. He has blueprinted the following agenda: To publicize the church and its role in the fight against drugs, its stand on abortion, to attract prospective members, and to join other church groups.

Asked why many people seem to lose interest in the church, Resus said that there has been a dearth in Christian education.

Resus has an impressive resume. He holds two doctorates. He is married to Cely Nakpil and they have two children, Jeremy, 18, and Corin, 16. Except for Jeremy, who is still in Ohio on an educational stint, the Resus family has established residence on Leland Avenue, a few yards away from the church.

The Rev. Dr. Jeremias Resus

Agnos

Continued from Page 7

health and social services.

When hard times come, the demand for what government does goes up -- and we can't avoid our responsibilities.

Hard times mean increased crime, increased health care needs, increased social services.

People look for cheaper entertainment, they take the bus instead of their car, they use the museums and libraries, parks and recreation programs.

If there was a profit to be made in providing these services, then the private sector would be doing it.

But there are places where the city can turn a profit and we ought to be entrepreneurial in our attitude and do exactly that.

The Pleasanton proposal will take time to move through approvals in San Francisco and in Pleasanton. If all went optimistically, ground could be broken for this development in two years. While the approval process is underway, a blue ribbon panel will evaluate proposals from developers.

For the past several years, we've been learning new ways of doing things in our city. The results include a major expansion in development of affordable housing within the city, partnerships with nonprofit agencies instead of for-profit hotel owners in meeting the needs of homeless people, and city support for more neighborhood child care options.

The Pleasanton proposal is also a new way of meeting future revenue needs for our city -- and making sure that San Franciscans of the next generation find this city better because of what we did together now.

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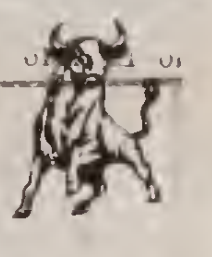
El Toro



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Christmas in April aids OMI family

By Pat Christensen

Every day is Christmas for Sharlene Henderson since Christmas in April came to call last Spring.

A national organization, Christmas in April Foundation selected 22 homes in the OMI district for renovation in their first such effort in San Francisco.

Sharlene Henderson lives with her mother and father in law. She has had multiple sclerosis 21 out of her 42 years, and now must use a wheelchair. Before Christmas in April built her a ramp, the retired Hendersons had to carry her down a steep flight of stairs to the street whenever she needed to leave the house - which wasn't often.

Kelvin Mack, a case worker from San Francisco Independent Living Resource Center encouraged and helped the Hendersons apply for the Christmas in April program.

"He was so sure we would qualify," Mrs. Henderson recalled. "I was really skeptical because everything my husband and I have gotten, we've had to work for.

"Kelvin helped us file the application for bathroom upgrading, a 60 foot ramp from the back porch around to the front of the house, and a new fence. I was so surprised when we were accepted."

Next came the big day, and Mrs. Henderson reports, "Never in my wildest dreams did I see anything like this....

"All these wonderful people -all volunteers - came to our house and started to work. I never saw idle hands. They were so happy. They worked from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m."

The Hendersons raised 7 children in their home, and Mr. and Mrs. Henderson said that they felt very confident having all those people running around their house that day.

It was a dream come true for Sharlene and her fifteen year old daughter, Angelique.

"I used to feel guilty going out without my mother," recalled Angelique. "She often couldn't go to family gatherings or shopping; things I wanted to do.

"Now, she can come and go as she pleases.

According to Sam Lawson, executive director of Christmas in April, "Every house has its own story. We helped out in 22 homes last spring. It's like an old barn raising or block party with hammers and nails.

"We particularly look to safety issues such as faulty wiring, leaky pipes, dry rot."

Christmas in April not only helps low income and disabled or elderly people, but they target needy child care centers and sanctuaries for homeless people.

"It feels great to get out and help people who really need and deserve your help," said Don Franklin from Pacific Gas & Electric Company, the primary financial sponsor of the program.

"The Hendersons are especially deserving of our help," Lawson said. "Marcella and her husband have been active volunteers in the community for years. They're involved in everything - OMI Neighbors in Action, St. Michaels Catholic Church, Sheraton School, and they don't even have any kids enrolled there.

"They're kind of a model family".

Christmas in April is coming to Visitacion Valley this spring. If you need help to repair or remodel your house and qualify as low income, elderly or disabled, call 558-7009 and talk to either Sam Lawson or Marfa Johnson about your needs.

Sharlene Henderson with her mother and father-in-law and daughter Angelique on the ramp built for Sharlene.

Winner

Continued from Page 1

Natriece doesn't intend to stop with any one of these titles, however. She looks forward to a career as a professional singer and lawyer.

"My big interests are singing and justice. I believe everyone who wants to can make a difference. And I believe that everyone has a chance: It's right there, if you try. Just by showing up, it shows you care."

The Miss Sunnydale contest is planned as an annual affair.

"We need sponsors for the kids," Smith commented. "It was so sad to see some of the girls cry because they didn't have dresses to wear. We scraped and scratched and bought dresses for them out of funds we needed for other things. We couldn't ignore them.

"Please tell your readers we need their help. This is so important to our girls."

If you can help, call Ruby Smith at 584-5028, afternoons and early evenings.

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Ciao Pinin

By Joseph Porter

The cheapest way and, to me, the most comfortable way to travel is by train. The airplane is faster, but you miss too much. In Spain the trains are the slowest in th world. Of course they also have fast and modem trains with accordingly higher fares.

I was the holder of a Senior Citizen's pass that allowed me to travel at half fare.

This particular train was meandering through Southem Spain at its own leisurely pace, slow enough so that one felt as if he could get off to gather wildflowers without fear of being left behind. Occasionally, the train would stop for the least possible excuse or for no excuse whatsoever.

We reached a station that had a small coffee shop. The train stopped and, with one fluid motion, we all got out, emptying the train and filling the coffee shop. A very pleasant lady was standing behind the counter and she managed, alone, to wait on all of us.

I am a coffee addict. I am willing to cross continents and oceans for a good cup of coffee. So far I have found my favorite coffee being served in Spain. I do not claim to be an expert or a connoisseur. I only say I like Spanish coffee best. It is a CAFE EXPRESSO with foaming milk, strong and burning hot. The average Spaniard would not have it any other way. Italy also has a good CAFFE ESPRESSO, if you like it black. If you ask for milk, they ruin it. They never make it hot enough.

Spanish people do not drink their coffee; they sip it out of a small cup or, preferably, a stemmed glass. To my knowledge, the only other country that follows the Spanish trend is French Morocco. In South America they have excellent coffee but, as in Italy, they prefer it black and strong.

Now that I have explained my preference for coffee, my story will make sense.

When I ordered coffee and Churros the lady made an unpardonable blunder. The coffee was lukewarm. Seeing that she was too busy, I did not complain and I drank it. At the end of the rush, she was leaning against the counter, exhausted. I called her over.

"Senora," I asked, I liked your coffee very much, but it was not hot enough. Will you make me another cup, please?"

"Si, Senor."

A minute later she was back with glass of coffee. It was hot, boiling hot, delicious, delectable, the best coffee I ever tasted. I took a sip and another. I was enjoying every drop of it when the stationmaster stuck his head through the door.

"All Abooaarrd...!

I downed a few more sips, waiting for the last man to leave, then I bolted for the door. I no sooner reached the steps of my compartment than I heard a voice behind me.

"Senor, wait! You said you liked my coffee. Here, drink it."

She handed me the glass. I reached for it, welcoming the chance for a few more sips before the train left. The train was standing stock still. I took advantage of the delay, yet I could not force that boiling liquid down my throat. A few more sips then, with a feeling of guilt, I tried to retum the unfinished drink.

"Take your time, Senor, Drink it all."

The train still was not moving.

Pretty soon heads popped out of the windows, curious about the delay. They saw me sipping coffee, the lady patiently standing by and the stationmaster with poised baton watching me from thecomer of his eye. They sized up the situation and silently waited.

Finally, I gulped the last drop of the delicious nectar and handed the glass back.

"Gracias, Senora!"

The stationmaster lifted his baton, a whistle blew and, with a clanging of couplings, a screeching of wheels and a thunderous applause from the passengers, we took off.

Again, the train, panting and chugging, was charging those barren Andalusian plains, at the unheard of speed of five miles an hour.

It was a happy day!

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Community Bulletin Board

New library hours

The Public Library is planning to change the Wednesday opening hour of operation at Visitacion Valley Branch from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. It is necessary to cut one hour from the Wednesday shift, and the librarian would prefer to open later in the afternoon and stay open until 7 p.m. as usual.

If you have an opinion about this change, contact Joan Goldman at 337-4790.

49er bookmarks

A series of six collectible bookmarks featuring the San Francisco 49ers football players is being distributed at the San Francisco Public Library throughout the 49ers season. Sponsored by Knudsen Dairy Products, the bookmarks highlight Roger Craig, Ronnie Lott, Joe Montana, Jerry Rice, Mike Walter, and Head Coach George Seifert.

Each bookmark features an action picture of each player and personal information on one side; on the reverse, the player recommends several books selected and endorsed by the american Library Association and the San Francisco Public Library.

You can get your 49er bookmarks at Visitacion Valley, Portola and Excelsior libraries.

Holiday Towing

San Francisco's Official Police Garage, City tow, will be encouraging safe merrymaking this holiday season with its ride-and-tow-home service, this year with extended hours.

On Christmas Eve and Day and New Year's Eve and Day, residents of the City who have had too much to drink can call The City Tow at any time and a City Tow truck will take car and driver home safely for free. Call 558-7400.

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Neighbors of the Excelsior

By Carol Taylor

The Neighbors of the Excelsior (N.O.T.E.) would like to welcome the GRAPEVINE to our district. We look forward to having your paper here and providing you with Excelsior News.

N.O.T.E. was started nearly four years ago by residents who were concerned about improving the quality of life in their neighborhood.

Our concern centered around preserving the special character of our neighborhood. We were experiencing many of the same problems as the Richmond District regarding illegal demolition, renovations and over building We were also loosing our historic homes in the process.

We have since developed building controls to protect the special neighborhood character of the Excelsior, as well as building and design considerations. Our history committee is involved in identifying our historic buildings.

N.O.T.E. provides a forum for neighborhood issues and has given residents a chance to meet others who live in the area. Through periodic meetings, Excelsior residents have become better informed on such issues as code enforcement, graffiti control, sidewalk trees, and transportation.

Our meetings are quarterly, and the December meeting is a potluck Holiday party at the Execelsior Playground (Russia Avenue at Madrid) on Saturday, December 8 at 3 p.m.

If you're interested in joining or need information, please call Carol at 337-8657.

Also, we are looking for youth groups who want to earn some money by delivering the GRAPEVINE door-to-door. The group must be supervised by an adult. Call 731-2859 for information.

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